

BRAC Information available for affected bases

Announcement expected from defense secretary

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The secretary of defense is expected to announce the proposed Base Realignment and Closure list during a press conference today.

Air Force officials said they understand the effect BRAC can have on servicemembers, retirees, employees and their families.

To assist people with vital BRAC information, the Air Force will provide a toll-free number, (888) 473-6120, for military and civilian members affected by the BRAC list. Besides the toll-free phone number, the Air Force has an informative BRAC Web page at www.af.mil/brac.

"This number will be available starting May 13 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EDT) until further notice," said Col. Thomas Fleming, Air Force BRAC response cell director. "We will have trained people from 10 different Air Force organizations to answer or assist with any questions people may have."

Airmen can seek information through their chain of command. They may also contact the public affairs office at their nearest Air Force installation.

BRAC is the congressionally authorized process the Department of Defense uses to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support its forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business.

"People are our most valuable asset; and though BRAC is a careful and impartial analysis, people will be affected," Colonel Fleming said. "We care about our people, and we want to keep our people informed and provide them the best possible information on the changes that will affect them."

The Air Force Web page will have a breakdown of affected bases from the BRAC list, said Jeff Whitted, Air

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Grone: BRAC important for many reasons

By Samantha Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Base Realignment and Closure 2005 is in full swing and this round is important for many reasons, said Philip Grone, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

To support ongoing force transformation, to improve the joint use of Department of Defense assets and to convert waste to warfighting are important in and of themselves, Mr. Grone said April 11.

"But the timing of BRAC for 2005 is also important because it provides a platform, an opportunity, for us to assess the sites and select the sites for forces that will return to the United States as a result of the broader global-force posture realignment that the secretary and the department have undertaken."

DOD uses the process to reorganize its installation infrastructure to most efficiently support its forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business, according to the BRAC Web site. The first BRAC occurred in 1988, and more followed in 1991, 1993 and 1995.

Congress authorized BRAC 2005 in the fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The selection criteria were published in February 2004. In March of this year, President Bush appointed the members of an independent BRAC commission.

The next big BRAC deadline is May 16 when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld must make his recommendations for realignments and closures to Congress and the commission. By Sept. 8, the commission must send its findings to the president, who has until Sept. 23 to approve or disapprove the commission's report.

Mr. Grone said that initially all installations are considered for closure or realignment.

"By statute, all military installations are to be treated equally," he said. "Throughout this process, we are assessing all of our installations and functions and missions in an equal way so that we can have a defensible package of recommendations to provide to the independent commission."

There are several criteria for selecting a base, but one top consideration is the installation's current and future mission capabilities and the effect on operational readiness of the total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness.

"In this round of BRAC, the joint cross-service groups that we have established have greater breadth (than BRAC 1995)," Mr. Grone said. "So rather than looking at, as we did in 1995, depot maintenance in

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Practical tactical



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Airman Cody Newsom, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron takes aim as Tech. Sgt. Brian McGee, one of five 509th LRS combat training instructors, watches over 509th LRS members during war games training May 6. The training was conducted to give 509th LRS Airmen who support Army convoy operations a glimpse of the training they will receive in Texas, Colorado and Kuwait. This is the first time this type of training has been done at the base level and will be repeated for each rotation going to the area of responsibility to support Army convoy operations.

Traffic deaths take toll on families

By Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — I tell myself I won't cry this time. It's been almost six years since my brother was locked up for vehicular manslaughter. As I sit and wait for him to be released into the visiting area, I remind myself, I will be strong, I will not cry this time.

I'm thankful that he somehow survived the wreck he caused. I deal with the guilt that comes when I think of the mother and daughter in the other car who didn't.

For my mother and stepfather the emotional and financial tolls have been devastating. Although he is one of six children, he is my mother's only son.

For my sisters and me, it has been an emotional roller coaster. Some of us have forgiven him and support him to the best of our ability. Others choose to pretend he no longer exists.

I try to visit him at least once a month. The 12-hour drive gives me time to think.

I think about how this event has devastated so many lives; how that split-second decision, to get behind the wheel, has turned into a lifetime of pain.

In his intoxicated state, my brother never realized he had forgotten to put his lights on as he pulled out into the path of a car holding a family of five. They didn't see him until it was too late.

T.C. finally arrives and checks in with the guards. This is when I feel the happiest, finally getting to see my baby brother again. I hug him briefly as a meaty-looking guard frowns.

We sit across the table from one another and chat. We've learned to keep it light, talking about something



Photo by Melissa Klinkner

Senior Airman Zachary Curry, 509th Comptroller Squadron, checks the tread on his tire before riding. "Plan for success — make sure your bike is safe to ride and you are fully equipped (mentally and physically)," Maj. Shawn Purvis, 509th Bomb Wing Safety Flight commander, said.

interesting he has read, or how work is going for me. I try to update him on family events without dwelling on the things he is missing too much.

Before I know it, the guard is giving us the five-minute warning.

This is where it gets tough for me. I hug him hard, holding on despite another frown from the meaty guard. Inevitably, my brother pulls away and heads for the door back to his cell. As he turns to look at me one last time,

and I see the sadness in his eyes, I feel the tears melting my resolve.

Slowly I make my way back to the outside, through the stale air, past the clanking metal doors running on molasses.

As I exit the last door, I give up and let the tears fall.

Next time I will be strong, I tell myself. I won't cry — next time.

I've got 54 years to see if I can do it.

Lack of communication could cause you to miss the point

By John Ingle
82nd Training Wing Public Affairs

SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Ever have those moments in life where you wish you could hit the rewind button and replay something that just took place?

I'd hate to think I'm the only person putting tread down on Earth who has ever dreamt of doing such a thing. It would be safe to guess most of the instances requiring such a flashback are those involving something that was said or an action made before thought was put into it.

I did the double whammy this past weekend.

Some friends and I decided we would get together and watch our beloved Dallas Cowboys draft the future of the team at the 2005 National Football League Draft. The day started out successfully — I had obtained a coveted "kitchen pass" from the missus and knew when I was to be home.

My son had a baseball game that afternoon, so it was planned I would be home with enough time to get him and me ready.

No sooner had I walked through the door, when I learned that my two youngest — sometimes joined at the hip and sometimes joined by hand and throat — had been

sent to their rooms for arguing.

Being the all-knowing father I am, I immediately surmised the culprit of the incident was a video game.

Stephanie and Tucker have a history of flailing gaming controllers, game boxes and anything else they can get their hands on at each other, so it was a logical guess a game was involved.

Without hesitation, I proceeded to lay into one and then the other, informing them of how childish — I know, they are children — it was to fight over a game.

"But dad," one began to say. I stopped them dead in their tracks before the short 'a' sound in "dad" came out.

"I don't want to hear it," I replied in a louder-than-needed voice. "That's the last time I'm getting a game for the two of you to argue over."

With that said, we packed up the car and headed to the baseball field.

While there, I realized what I said might not have been the best. Before the game started, I told Stephanie we would talk about the incident again after the game.

My mood got better as our team clobbered the other 19-0. Tucker did strike out looking, but that's another story.

Stephanie reminded me we were to discuss the gaming episode again and I proceeded to apologize for how I handled it.

Then, as they say, the truth came out of the mouth of my kids.

"We weren't arguing about the game, though," they said.

I was looking for a place in my truck to curl up into a ball. My tirade over the supposed cause of the problem was for naught.

Remember the guy at the Chicago Cubs game who interfered with a play and cost the Cubbies a trip to the World Series last year? Yeah, that was me in my own car. I was looking for a security guard to escort me out of the area so I wasn't pummeled by my own kids.

I didn't take time to listen to what was said or what they were attempting to say.

I was wrong. Had I taken the time to listen to them, we would have had a different, and probably tamer, conversation. No, I didn't condone the argument they had. But I didn't condone my actions.

The same can be said for the workplace. How often do we react or speak before we fully understand what is going on? When was the last time you or someone you know was admonished before all the facts were out on the table?

It's better to wait than press on with limited details. Don't get caught trying to curl up in a ball, looking for a place to hide.

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

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STRATCOM transforming, decentralizing

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — U.S. Strategic Command is transforming by incorporating old missions, adding new ones and making the command more flexible and agile for the 21st century, officials said.

STRATCOM, at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., still maintains the U.S. nuclear deterrent, but gained a number of new missions as a result of changes in the unified command plan in 2002.

These new missions called for the command to make fundamental changes in the way it has conducted business, said Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell, the command's chief of staff.

In the plan, the command received mis-

sile defense, global strike, information operations and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. In 2004, the mission of combating weapons of mass destruction was added.

"Those missions, by and large, were about planning, coordinating and integrating," General Campbell said. "Execution is when directed — especially for global strike."

Since Pentagon leaders announced the changes in 2002, command officials have been "developing the concepts for how we thought we would do these missions," the general said.

The command developed four joint-force component commands to take on the new missions.

The component commanders are:

Integrated missile defense — Army Lt.

Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Space and global strike — Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Network warfare — Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, National Security Agency director at Fort Meade, Md.

Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance — Navy Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, Defense Intelligence Agency director, The Pentagon.

General Campbell said it's important for people to remember the DIA and NSA directors don't control the JFCCs.

"These are separate and distinct hats that those gents wear for us," the general said.

The command is still working on the

combating weapons of mass destruction mission, General Campbell said.

STRATCOM is working with the various component commanders in standing up the new organizations.

He said many of the billets for the JFCCs will come from commands' headquarters and make it much smaller than the more than 2,000 members on staff. The reduction will force the command to think differently, General Campbell said.

Taking the manpower positions out of the headquarters forces the command to decentralize, he said.

The new construct creates bridges between the agency world and the combatant command world.

"That was our vision, to see if we could better tap the resources that we need to do our jobs," General Campbell said.

DoD to resume anthrax vaccinations

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Department of Defense will resume its Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program.

A memorandum signed April 29 allows military commanders to resume the vaccination program using the emergency use authorization conditions issued by the Food and Drug Administration Jan. 27.

The program requires commanders to carefully follow EUA conditions, providing members of the armed services education on the program and an option to refuse the vaccination without penalty.

"This significant step allows the department to resume this vital protection measure for service members who are at increased risk of exposure to anthrax attack," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

On April 6, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the government's motion to modify the court's AVIP injunction against mandatory anthrax vaccination from Oct. 27, 2004.

Once vaccinations begin, DoD will provide an education and information program, including an FDA-

approved brochure, to inform potential vaccine recipients and healthcare providers that the FDA has authorized the emergency use of anthrax vaccine to prevent inhalation anthrax. People will also be informed about the vaccine's benefits and side effects before they are asked to decide about vaccination.

For the most part, vaccinations during the period of the EUA will be limited to military units designated for homeland bioterrorism defense and to U.S. forces assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and Korea.

For more details about the anthrax vaccination, visit the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Web site at <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil>.

Anthrax Vaccine Facts

What is Anthrax?

Anthrax ('an-'thraks): A robust spore-forming bacterium (*Bacillus anthracis*) that can be stored for years, loaded into a variety of weapons, and produced in large quantities without sophisticated equipment. Inhalation anthrax is 99 percent lethal in an unprotected, unvaccinated population, left untreated.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by stimulating the body's immune system to produce antibodies. These antibodies circulate through the body on patrol for germ invaders. Vaccines prepare the bodies defenses against harmful invading germs.

Anthrax vaccine was administered during the Gulf War to about 150,000 servicemembers, to protect U.S. forces against the threat of Iraq's biological weapons. Between March 1998 and October 2004, more than 1.3 million people have been vaccinated with more than 5.2 million doses of anthrax vaccine.

MYTH: The anthrax vaccine is dangerous and can cause death.

FACT: The anthrax vaccine is as safe as any other vaccine. For any vaccine, any death reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System is examined to ensure it is not related to a vaccine related problem. The Department of Defense, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and an independent panel of civilian physicians review reports of death or serious illness that might possibly be associated with anthrax vaccination. These groups all agree that anthrax vaccine is not associated with any unexpected patterns of adverse events.

Anthrax Q&A

Is it a biological warfare threat?

- The threat is real and failure to prepare would result in grave consequences. A former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, James Woolsey, referred to it as "the single most dangerous threat to our national security in the foreseeable future."
- Several countries have or are developing an offensive biological warfare capability using anthrax.

Are there vaccine-resistant strains?

- No, every disease-causing strain of *Bacillus anthracis* produces the same protein, a protein that is required to cause disease. The vaccine induces the production of antibodies that neutralize that protein.

Has the vaccine been used in the past? How often?

- Yes, since licensure in November 1970, anthrax vaccine has been administered to people at risk (both civilian and military) — veterinarians, laboratory workers, and some people working with livestock for several decades. The manufacturer and FDA report that about 68,000 doses of anthrax vaccine were distributed between 1974 and 1989.
- The Army has purchased anthrax vaccine since its approval by the FDA in 1970, for use by about 1,500 at-risk laboratory workers.

News in brief

B-2 Fun Fest set

The B-2 Fun Fest takes place 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at the Base Exchange parking lot. Attractions include the Richard Petty's Cup Stock Car Simulator, a live D.J. with Karaoke, face painting, the Whopper Hopper, a bottle game and more.

Police week celebrated Sunday

Representatives from the 509th Security Forces Squadron will host weapons and K-9 demonstrations 1-3 p.m. Sunday at the base exchange. SF members will also mark personal valuables to deter theft.

Traffic light to be installed

To improve traffic flow through the Spirit Boulevard and Vandenberg Avenue intersection, Whiteman is installing its first traffic light. This project will require local road closures and detours. Advance notice of closures will be provided as warranted.

Palace Front briefing scheduled

The Palace Front briefing will explain opportunities for military members leaving active duty. The briefing, takes place at 10 a.m. June 5 at 930 Arnold Avenue in the Reserve Recruiting Conference Room. For more details, call Master Sgt. TeNeuss Land at 687-4017.

Chief master sergeant test dates change

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The testing window for those competing for promotion to chief master sergeant will move to the second week in September.

For the 05E9 cycle, the testing window will be Sept. 13-6. Previously, Airmen were tested immediately following the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The change will not affect promotion announcements or the months during which promotions are made for the cycle. For more details, call your commander's support staff. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Niner Line

Whiteman's Niner Line provides a communication channel for you to obtain information and assistance in making Whiteman a better place to live and work.

Before calling the Niner Line, try to resolve your particular problem with the responsible base agency.

If you've exhausted the normal avenues, call Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, at 687-3119 or e-mail 9r.Line@whiteman.af.mil.

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- Print documents on both sides of the paper
- Buy recycled paper and cartridges for printers
- Avoid purchasing over-packaged products
- Buy products in refillable or reusable containers



Photo by Neil Bass

More trees, please

Maria Sikorski and Cheyenne Hansen plant a tree as part of a youth center Conservation Frontiers Club event. The club planted trees and shrubs at the nature trail near a stream on base for Arbor Day. Arbor Day focuses attention on trees and the benefits they provide to us aesthetically and for their carbon dioxide absorption and oxygen producing abilities. The efforts of the Conservation Frontiers Club members will help ensure Whiteman is selected as a tree city USA for the 11th consecutive year. For more details about Arbor Day or to become involved in the program, call Neil Bass, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron natural resource planner, at 687-2014. Maria is the daughter of Staff Sgt. Greg and Vilima Sikorski, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Cheyenne is the daughter of Senior Airman Wesley and Tara Peel, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

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Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Master Sgts. Aaron and Mauree Powell, 509th Medical Group, graduated in the same class from the First Sergeant's Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Double Diamond

Couple becomes first sergeants

By Senior Airman Joe Lacdan
Public Affairs

When Master Sgt. Mauree Powell learned she had been accepted into the First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., she had mixed feelings.

While becoming a first sergeant was one of her career goals, she knew it had also been a longtime aspiration of her husband, Master Sgt. Aaron Powell.

"I felt like I stepped on his toes," she said. "But once we sat down and talked about it and found he was (OK) with it, I was excited."

"I wasn't sure whether or not I was going to get a First sergeant slot because I didn't know how the Air Force felt about husband and wife first sergeants, Aaron said."

So imagine their surprise when Aaron learned about his acceptance in February.

"It's been a dream to become a first sergeant," Aaron said. "As a healthcare professional, I'm already there taking care of people. I look forward to taking care of people in a different way now."

The couple graduated from the four-week first sergeant course April 5.

Aaron, a clinical medicine technician, and Mauree, an aerospace medicine tech, had been looking into special-duty career fields when then-Master Sgt. Ben Bachman steered them in another direction.

Mr. Bachman, who since retired and now works as a civilian security guard, made a significant impact on the Airmen of the 509th MedGp. Aaron said Mr. Bachman

spent countless hours mentoring troops.

"I can't remember most of the first sergeants I've had," Aaron said. "But Sergeant Bachman, I remember. His impact on everyone was great and when there were times when I needed some support, guidance or mentoring, he was the guy."

"Sergeant Bachman was the epitome of what a first sergeant should be," Mauree said. "He was always out talking to people. He was involved in every activity we did."

The couple also said Chief Master Sgts. Terrance Douglas, Keith Cobb, former 509th Bomb Wing command chief master sergeant, and Steph Page, former 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant were positive influences on their decisions to become first sergeants.

"I've always heard that being a first sergeant is the best job in the Air Force," Mauree said. "You're touching more than your individual flight. You're taking care of people on a larger level and I'm excited."

As the Powells prepare for their new assignments at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., they said sharing the same position will work to their advantage. Mauree will be the first sergeant for the 49th Services Squadron and her husband will join the 49th Materiel Maintenance Squadron.

"We can feed off each other," Mauree said. "We always have in the 16 years we've been married. When I come home after a hard day dealing with a troop, I know he'll understand. When I get called out at 2 a.m., he'll understand what's that's like as a first sergeant. We'll both be living it. It makes a big difference."

Chief's Counsel

(Editor's note: The Chief's Counsel gives Whiteman chief master sergeants an opportunity to give younger Airmen the benefit of lessons learned through years of successful Air Force Service to the nation. This will be an ongoing monthly feature.)

By Chief Master Sgt. Mark Clark
509th Operations Group

Do you have balance in your life? Are you taking care of yourself and your troops as well as you take care of the mission?

At Whiteman, we operate the most powerful weapons system ever to take to the skies. We are a special unit with unique and critical capabilities that only we can deliver in defense of America and her allies around the globe.

We always seem to have a “priority” mission at our doorstep. The B-2 is in high demand and thus we never seem to get a

break whether it's from real-world combat missions, forward presence deployments, exercises, inspections, air shows, flyovers and other various taskings. These overlapping requirements and our desire to meet the needs of our leaders and our nation are certainly a leadership challenge that at times can blind us to the concerns of ourselves and our people.

The B-2 is an awesome machine, but it's the men and women who fix, fly and support it that makes us successful. In order to ensure we're always ready to answer the call, we must make sure we're striking a balance in our lives and our troops are doing the same.

When is the last time you took leave? Do you make sure you and your troops take at least one leave period every year of 14 days or longer as Air Force Instruction 36-3003, Military Leave Program recommends?

How many days of use or lose leave do

you and your troops scramble to burn every year because the “mission” didn't permit leave throughout the year? If we can make the time to take leave at years end to avoid losing it then why couldn't we find the time during the year to take leave and prevent the use or lose scenario from occurring?

The answer to that question is a simple one — we think every task is too critical to leave to someone else and somehow the mission can't happen without us.

Well that doesn't pass the “hit by a bus” test. As we all know, if something happened this morning on our way to work that prevented us from arriving, the mission wouldn't grind to a halt. Those around us would rally to the cause and the mission would proceed just fine.

I use the leave program as an example to illustrate my point, but gym time, chapel time, family time and socializing with friends are equally important.

Are you making sure you and your troops have the time needed to improve and maintain their physical fitness? Are your spiritual and emotional needs being met? Do your family and friends have to carry a picture of you to remind them of what you look like? Are you leading by

example by taking care of yourself or are you constantly preaching mission at all costs?

These are important questions that need to be answered. We simply cannot be at our best if we don't take the time to strike a balance in our lives.

The mighty 509th has a storied combat history forged in the furnace of battle from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom and stands ready to answer the nation's call in future battles. For that we can all be proud, but we cannot forget what really makes us successful — our people.

The Air Force has many resources to help you and your troops achieve balance in your lives.

My challenge to you is to take a good hard look at how you take care of yourself and your troops and make sure you're striking the proper balance between personal needs and mission. Don't be afraid to take a break and put your needs first every now and then. Having the proper balance in our lives is the real key to mission success and each of us must make sure we keep our batteries charged, so we're ready when the nation calls.

So I will ask again, do you have balance in your life?

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Whiteman Spirit Award



Senior Airman Steven Teteth

509th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Steven Teteth, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Matthew Erichsen, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Monday.

Linda Landez nominated Airman Teteth for the award.

Mrs. Landez asked Airman Teteth to share his cultural experiences with a class at Crest Ridge Middle School in Warrensburg. Airman Teteth's presentation was part of Mrs. Landez's field study for a class at Central Missouri State University. Airman Teteh is a native of Micronesia.

"He made quite an impression on the students as well as the faculty," Mrs. Landez said. "Not only did he take time out of his busy schedule he was also part of a unique interactive learning lesson for the students."

Personally Speaking

Duty title: Vehicle mechanic

Time on station: 5 years, 5 months

Time in service: 6 years

Hometown: Yap, Micronesia

Hobbies: Basketball, barbecuing with friends and sight-seeing.

Goals: To get my Community College of the Air Force degree.

Best thing about Whiteman: The 509th LRS Squadron and the loving people I work with.

Pet Peeves: Laziness

What motivates your winning spirit?

The people I work with and friends.

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be? For summer to be all year long.

OFFICE, from Page 1

Force News Service operations division chief.

"We will also have links to frequently asked questions, news articles, and DOD and Air Force information concerning BRAC," he said. "As we receive new information, we will post it to this page."

Local communities surrounding these installations will also be affected. Communities can address their concerns with the president's commission at regional BRAC commission meetings or by contacting the

commission at (703) 699-2950 for more information. Phone hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, Mondays through Fridays.

The BRAC process will take months to be finalized. The secretary of defense's BRAC recommendations are not final. The president's BRAC commission will review the list for conformity with the office of the secretary of defense's force structure plan and published selection criteria and report its findings and conclusions to the president by Sept. 8.

Key BRAC dates

- ✓ June 4-7 — National Association of Installation Developers Inc., hosts its annual conference in Denver, Colo. The group was formed to be a leading public service organization engaged in the closure and reuse of military installations.
- ✓ July 1 — No later than this date, the comptroller general shall transmit to the Congressional Defense Committees, a report containing a detailed analysis of the Secretary of Defense recommendations and selection process.
- ✓ Sept. 8 — No later than this date, the Commission must transmit to the President a report containing findings and conclusions based on a review and analysis of the SecDef's recommendations.
- ✓ Sept. 23 — No later than this date, the President shall transmit to the Commission and to Congress a report containing the President's approval or disapproval of the Commission's recommendations. If the president approves the recommendations, the recommendations are binding 45 legislative days after Presidential transmission or adjournment, unless Congress enacts joint resolution of disapproval.
- ✓ Oct. 20 If the President disapproves the Commission's initial recommendations to the President n later than this date.
- ✓ Nov. 7 President's approval or disapproval of revised recommendations. The president must approve the revised recommendations and transmit approval to Congress by this date or the process ends.
- ✓ April 15 Commission terminates.

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Got bombs? 442nd Munitions Squadron members give the ‘Hawg’ teeth

By Maj. David Kurle
442nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Without the 442nd Maintenance Squadron’s Munitions Flight, about the only thing A-10 pilots could hurl at the enemy would be verbal insults.

In their compound, a seven-minute drive across Whiteman’s runway, the men and women of the munitions flight, or “ammo” as they call themselves, handle some of the most dangerous materials in the Air Force.

“We build, inspect, maintain, store, ship, receive and deliver to the flight line all explosives in the Air Force inventory,” said Staff Sgt. David McDonough, a traditional reservist munitions systems journeyman.

Then with a grin he added, “The Air Force Reserve pays me to play with explosives.”

Sergeant McDonough’s sense of humor about his job is common in the munitions flight, which displays a flag from the Black Cat Fireworks company on a pole above their fenced-in compound – far removed from the rest of the base because of the obvious hazards involved in their work.

Despite the unit’s collective sense of humor, the business of munitions and safety are taken very seriously.

“Safety is the most important thing,” said Chief Master Sgt. Terry Snyder, the full-time munitions flight chief. “There is nothing that we train on that doesn’t involve safety – everything begins with a safety briefing.”

Pride in the performance of their duties is also evident among the “ammo troops.” “I’ve worked in other areas before I moved to ammo, but I can honestly say the people here are closer than a lot of units,” Chief Snyder said. “Part of it’s driven by the fact we’re located so far away from everyone else.”

Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Schmitz, a traditional reservist munitions operations technician, who has been in “ammo” for nine years, agreed with the chief.

“The camaraderie, the sense of family, among ammo people is unique in the Air Force,” she said. “The magnitude of our responsibility is something we’re very proud of.”

While bombs and bullets are what the munitions flight is famous for, the men and women across Whiteman’s runway handle conventional explosives used in the Air Force: from ammunition for security forces to the explosives used in the ejection system of the A-10.

“Egress and life support is one of the most important things we do,” Sergeant Schmitz said. “Anything that can explode we manage in some way.”

Along with Master Sgt. Jana Westcott, an air reserve technician munitions operations supervisor, Sergeant Schmitz procures the munitions needed for the 442nd Fighter Wing’s A-10 operations, its small arms requirements, as well as war reserve materiel from the Air Force Combat Ammunition System.

“If we don’t do our job, there are no munitions available to build and, in turn, no munitions put on aircraft,” Sergeant Westcott said. “Also, there’s no ammunition for security forces.”

The munitions flight really got to show



Photo by Staff Sgt. Leo Brown

A munitions flight member installs an M904 nose fuse into a MK-82 general purpose bomb.

what they were made of during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, when part of the 442nd Fighter Wing was mobilized and sent to the Middle East.

As Sergeants Westcott and Schmitz procured and accounted for munitions, Airmen such as Sergeant McDonough and Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Carter, another munitions systems specialist, built the ordnance in the configurations needed for A-10 operations.

“In war, it’s an ongoing cycle of building bombs in 12-hour shifts, nonstop,” Sergeant Carter said. “It made you realize that the months of training had prepared you for that moment.”

“It’s a great feeling when a plane comes back empty,” Sergeant McDonough said. “You’re participating in something that will change the world and that’s satisfying.”

“We managed to get activated and go to Iraq and brought everyone home with all of their appendages,” Chief Snyder said. “In Iraq, I was totally amazed at the way people just stepped up; they put all my doubts to rest and far-surpassed my expectations.”

Deploying to Iraq did not come without challenges. For the Airmen who build bombs, the challenge was handling the Air Force’s “big bombs” – the GBU-series, laser-guided weapons.

“Building up the GBU’s is the hardest because of the size and weight,” said Sergeant McDonough.

For Sergeants Westcott and Schmitz, the challenge was accounting for every part that goes into building up munitions.

“We have to plan for the worst-case scenario,” said Sergeant Westcott. “There may be 10 components in some of those bombs.”

“Accountability is our biggest challenge because we have to keep track of where everything is at all times,” said Sergeant Schmitz. “If you’re missing any component of that bomb, you’re in trouble.”

While at Kirkuk, Iraq, members of the munitions flight were tasked with the job of cleaning Iraqi munitions out of existing bunkers. In all, flight members removed more than 180,000 pieces of enemy ordnance weighing more than 3.5 million pounds.

When they weren’t removing ordnance, the men and women from the munitions flight stored, assembled and transported more than 700,000 pounds of net explosive weight for the Air Force.

“Without ammo, the 442nd would be an airline with a one-seat airplane,” Chief Snyder said.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Master Sgt. Leroy Williams, 442nd Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, attaches a DSM-129 target simulator to a TGM-65B Maverick missile in preparation for a functional test of the missile.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Airman 1st Class (now Senior Airman) Lance Moore, carefully crutinizs 30-millimeter A-10 ammunition as it passes through a GFU-7, ammunition loading assembly during and inspection operation.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Staff Sgt. Chris Harris (left) and Master Sgt. Leroy Williams perform a functional check of the guidance and control unit on a TGM-65B Maverick missile using a DSM-157 test set.

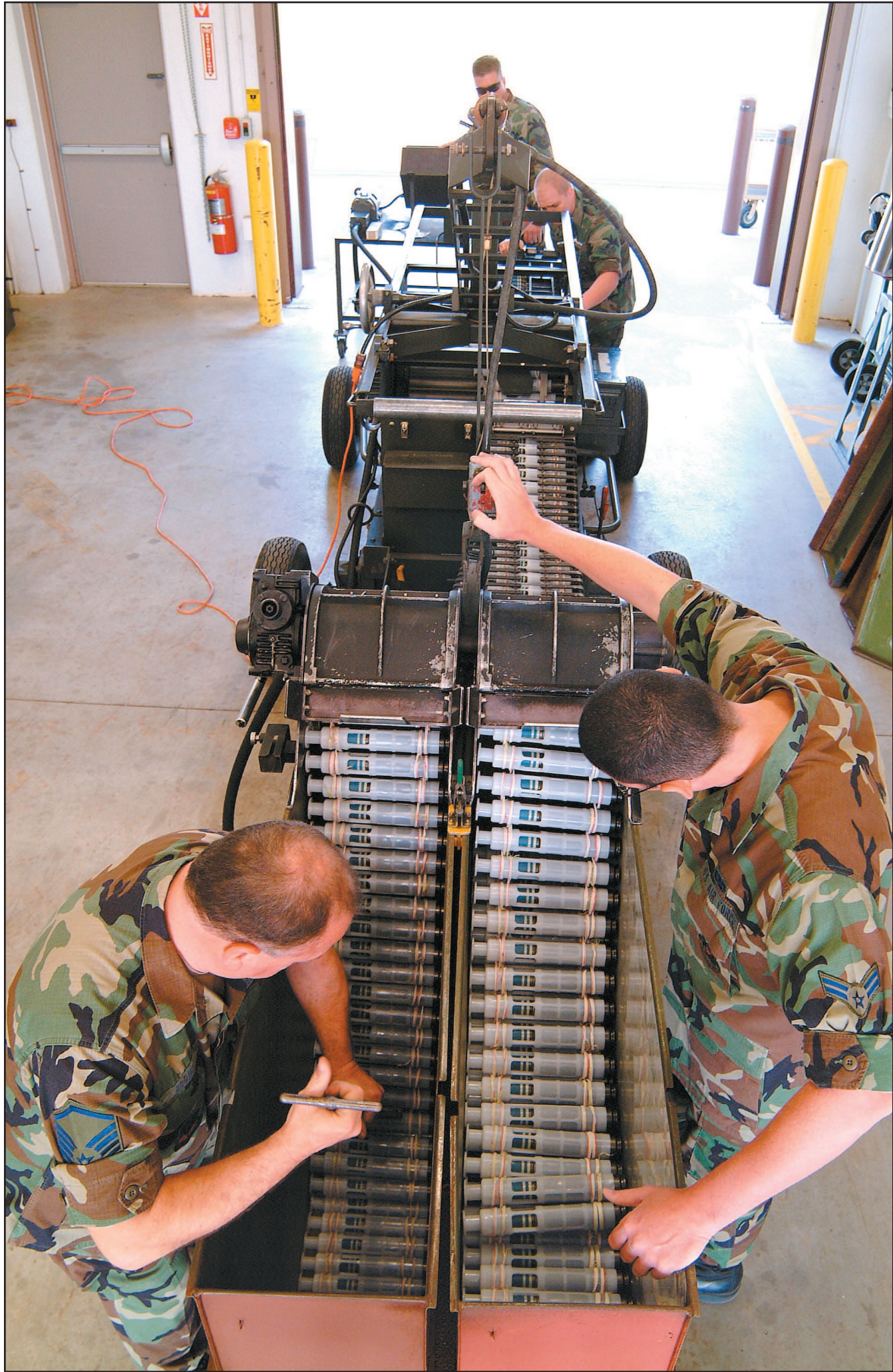


Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Huntington

Master Sgt. Rich Brown and Airman 1st Class James Head (foreground) inspect 30-millimeter ammunition using a GFU-7, ammunition loading assembly, which has been used to down-load ammunition from an A-10. Working with them are Airman 1st Class, now Senior Airman, Lance Moore and Tech. Sgt. Jimmy Deffenderfer, during the April 17 unit training assembly. The four Airmen are members of the 442nd Maintenance Squadron's munitions flight, which procures and handles all the conventional explosives used in the 442nd Fighter Wing, everything from bullets for security forces, to ejection seat components, to the ordnance used by A-10s.



Whiteman salutes its Volunteers

By Bob Berger

Family Support Center

The night belonged to a special group of people April 27 as Whiteman celebrated National Volunteer Week with their annual Volunteer Reception at the Community Center.

More than 225 volunteers and family members gathered to dine, draw for door prizes, listen to music performed by the State Fair Community College "Jazz Runners," celebrate their achievements, and honor many people for their accomplishments.

Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, presided over the presentation of 23 awards and the recognition of two people who will vie for national volunteer honors: The award winners are:

The Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award: **Amy Allen; Michelle Fleming; Deana Barylski and Kathy Paganoni.**

Authorized by Air Force Chief of Staff this award recognizes individuals who perform exceptional long term outstanding community service. The volunteer service must be significant in character, produce tangible results and reflect favorably on the Air Force. A person can only receive the VEA once.

The President's Volunteer Service Award: **Glenda Armstead; Christine Bartholomew; Deana Barylski; Laura Blaszczyk; Peter Blaszczyk; Lisa Brandau; Bill Brunner; Crystal Jones; Tammy Kjos; Lori Olive; Julie Mayer; Wendy Palomo;**

Mrs. Paganoni; Wilhelm Poslusny; Lori Reiter; Arthur Roy; Sheila Schneider; Penny Schmutz, and Tom White.

The President's Volunteer Service award is a prestigious national honor offered in recognition of sustained volunteer service. Originally established in 2003, this award gives presidential recognition to individuals, families and groups who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service each year.



Bob Berger, community readiness consultant, speaks to reception attendants.

Each year, base agencies can nominate individuals for this award based on the number of hours they've volunteered for their community. For 2004, the Family Support Center nominated 19 individuals who donated more than 500 hours of community service.

All award recipients receive a personalized certificate of achievement, a congratulatory letter from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, and an official President's Award pin, and a congratulatory letter from President Bush.

The National Military Family Association Very Important Patriot nominated two volunteers to compete nationally. They are **Lori Olive and Mrs. Barylski.**

The Program recognizes exceptional volunteers worldwide whose outstanding service contributes to improving the quality of life in their military and neighboring communities. The focus of each nomination is on the impact the volunteer work has had on the community.



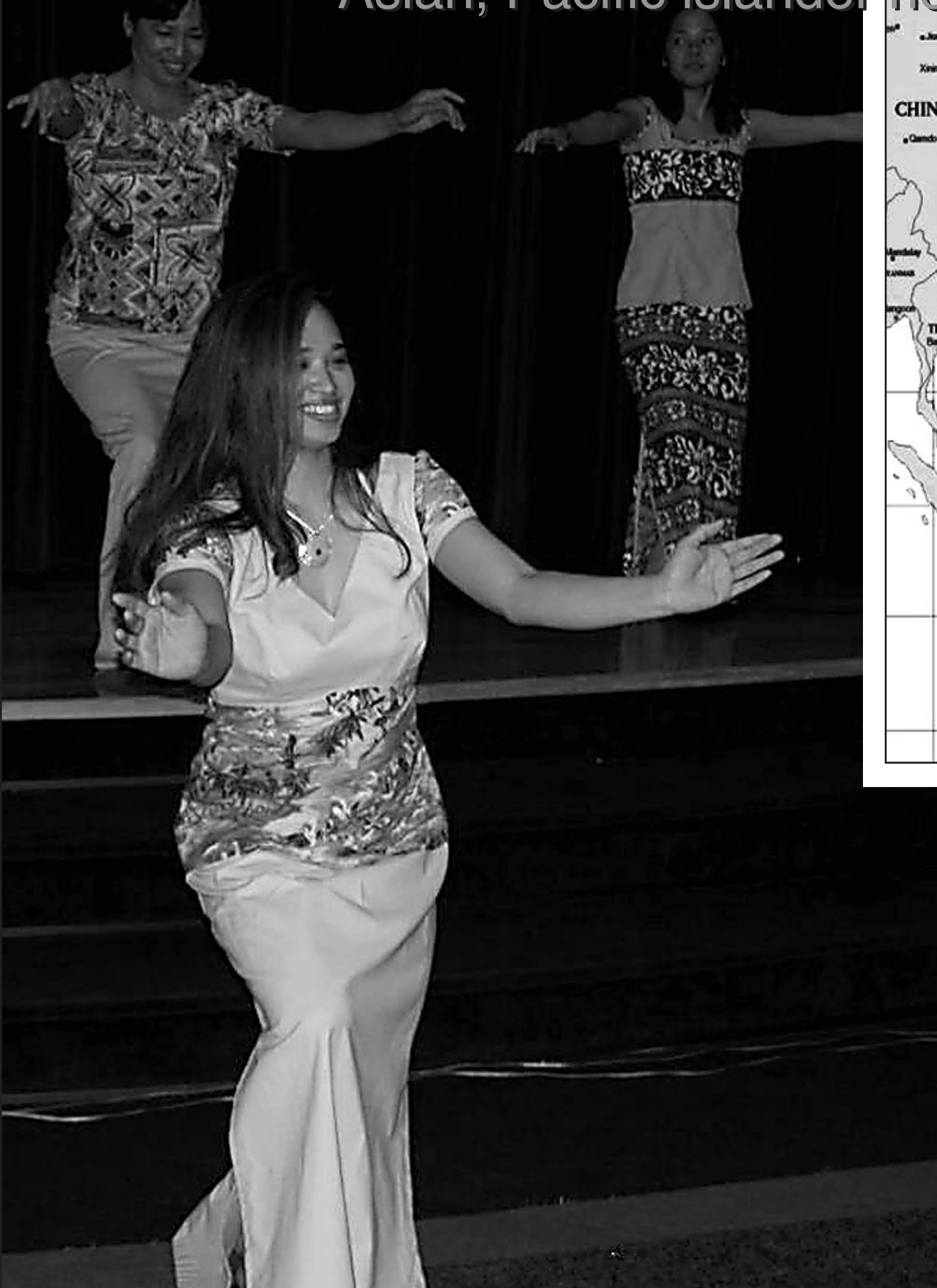
Photos by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

Above: Jack Bryant and Bob Berger, family support center, present Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander with a \$697,793.67 check. It represents the money volunteers saved the wing. Right: Air Force Volunteer Excellence Award winners Amy Allen, Deana Barylski and Kathy Paganoni pose with their certificates. More than 225 volunteers and their family members attended the reception. Top: Senior Airman Anthony Ianno, 509th Communications Squadron, entertains reception attendants by playing a saxophone.



Culture Show

Asian, Pacific islander heritage celebrated



Left: 1st Lt. Jaylene Shanchez, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, leads a Polynesian dance during the event at the community center. Many Hawaiian dances represent ancient warriors and goddesses or everyday life on the islands. Each dance describes a story about the culture of the people from around the South Pacific. One of the other cultural performances was the Korean martial art of Tae-kwon-do demonstration. The Asian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration open house took place Saturday.



Photo by Senior Airman Leila Hemenway

A wide variety of Asian, Pacific Islander food was also available to the more than 100 Whiteman members who attended the celebration. Several items relating to the various cultures were also on display.



Reyne Husky demonstrates Tinikling, the most popular and best-known Philippine dance and honored as the Filipino national dance. The dance imitates the movement of the tinikling birds as they walk between grass stems, run over tree branches, or dodge bamboo traps set by rice farmers.

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For your information

Education

For more details, visit the education center Web site at <https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/home-page.htm>

OTS packages due June 10-July 1

Officer training school will conduct a non-rated selection board Aug. 26 with packages due between June 10 and July 1. A commissioning briefing begins at 1:30 p.m. May 26 in Room 20 at the base training and education services building. The November board is cancelled, and the first opportunity to apply in fiscal 2006 will be March 3, 2006.

Community

B-2 tours available

Do your family and friends want to see the B-2 up close? They can view the B-2 from 10:45 a.m.-noon today, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, Sept. 9 and Oct 14 in front of base operations. To sign up or for more details, call public affairs at 687-6128.

WOSC meets Thursday

The Whiteman Officers' Spouses' Club meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Mission's End for dinner and to celebrate spring and gardens. For more details and reservations, contact Michelle Hunt at 563-4858 or kevinandmichelle@charter.net.

Clubs may need special status

Squadron booster clubs and other fundraising activity

organizations may be required to become a private organization. POs are self-sustaining interest groups organized by people outside the scope of official business. If your organization's or activity's assets exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 over a three-month period, it's required to become a PO. Members of any PO or unofficial activity who wish to start a fundraiser must submit an official request. For more details, call Dianne Maness, 509th Services Squadron private organization monitor.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Spouse appreciation day set

A variety of special activities are scheduled to honor spouses of Defense Department members and retirees beginning at 8 a.m. today. Classes are free. Lunch and free child monitoring will be provided. Seating is limited. To R.S.V.P, call the family support center at 687-7132.

End of school party set

Families of those deployed or serving a remote assignment are invited to a skating party from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Saturday in Warrensburg. To make reservations, call FSC at 687-7132.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 747-2012.

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GRONE, from Page 1

this round of BRAC, we're looking at all of the industrial activities of the department on a joint basis."

Medical functions, headquarters and support, education and training, intelligence, supply and storage are all being assessed from a joint perspective, he said. This will help provide the most efficient military structure.

Mr. Grone said that jointness is a "key aspect" of this BRAC. "The decision process in this BRAC is joint from top to bottom in this round of BRAC," he said.

Another important criterion is the availability and condition of lands, facilities and associated airspace at existing and potential receiving locations. That availability also extends to homeland-defense training missions.

Officials at bases chosen for closure or major realignment can expect the process to be completed within six

years from the approval of recommendations. They can also expect some assistance and guidance from the DOD and interagency partners, Mr. Grone said.

Officials at DOD's Office of Economic Adjustment make planning grants and assistance available. Also, Mr. Grone said, a series of policy reforms will enhance the DOD's ability to move forward to close or realign a base as expeditiously as possible to allow the economic redevelopment of the areas affected.

"Communities support our military installations with a great deal of cooperation and partnership," he said. "But as a result of what we must do to enhance the military mission, some bases, as excess capacity, that no longer will be required.



Did you know you can fill out a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release, for a variety of accomplishments? For more details, call 1st Lt. Ed Gulick at 687-6122.

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A day at the park

Whiteman first sergeants enjoy a laugh in the bullpen during the first sergeants vs. squadron commanders softball game Friday. The first sergeants won the contest, 15-14. In the other game, the Whiteman Chiefs beat the Eagles (group commanders) 6-4. Unit members watched the game from the stands. The game, which was sponsored by the Whiteman Chiefs Group, took place to boost units' morale.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tia Schroeder

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Services Page editor.....Poppy Arthurton
509th Services Squadron.....687-7929
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Katy Trail bike ride

Join outdoor recreation at 8 a.m. May 21 for a 35-mile ride along the Katy Trail from Boonville, Mo., to Hartsburg, Mo. Riders should bring a bike, repair kit, water and lunch. The cost is \$10, outdoor recreation can provide a bike and helmet for free if needed. Call for more details.

Boater safety course (pontoon)

People who are interested in renting a boat from outdoor recreation must take a certification class. The next pontoon boat class is 8 a.m.-12 p.m. May 26 at Windsor Crossing. The cost is \$5. Call outdoor recreation for more details.

Long Shoals launch

An intramural bass fishing tournament begins at 12:30 p.m. May 26 at Truman Lake. Participants can register and pay a one-time fee of \$20 at outdoor recreation. This allows people to participate in the 9 remaining tournaments throughout the season. Call outdoor recreation for details.

Discount pool passes

Base members can purchase discount season passes to the pool at outdoor recreation. The prices are \$45 for a family and \$20 for a single pass. The cost increases \$5 after May 26. The pool opens May 27 with free swimming for ID card holders.

Fitness Center 687-5496

B-2 Bikers

Spinning enthusiasts can join a new cycling club. The B-2 Bikers meets at 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the fitness center.

Armed Forces Day 5K run/walk

Run or walk 5K to celebrate Armed Forces Day with the fitness center. This event starts at noon May 20 from the fitness center.

Towel service

Effective June 1, the fitness center will no longer provide towels. Customers will need to bring a sweat towel for personal use. Cleaning solution and paper towels for wiping down equipment will still be supplied.

Whiteman triathlon

Start training now for the June 18 Whiteman triathlon. The triathlon includes swimming 520 meters, a 10K bike ride and a 5K run. There are male and female individual open divisions and team divisions. Teams can be co-ed and must have a swimmer, runner and cyclist.

Royal Oaks Golf Course 687-5572

Air Combat Command Kid's Golf

Sign up for Kid's Golf by May 31. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. July 11 and costs \$49.95, which includes clubs, five 1-hour group sessions, training booklets and a 9-hole parent/child tournament. The program is open to children ages 6-13.

Memorial Day scramble

A four-person scramble tournament will shotgun start at 9 a.m. May 30 at the Royal Oaks Golf Course. Sign up by May 25. The cost is \$20 per person plus cart and green fee.

Food & Fun

Stars and Strikes 687-5114

Summer leagues

Get out of the heat and into a Stars and Strikes summer bowling league. Leagues start playing 6 p.m. May 23. There's one to suit everyone so contact the bowling center for more details.

Mission's End 687-4422

Major League Baseball

Club members can watch 60 untelevised MLB games a week for free in the Lavene Lounge. week for free in the Lavene Lounge.

Community Activities

Skills Development Center 687-5691

Spin and win!

Throughout May, customers have one chance a day to spin the wheel and win a 5, 10, 15 or 20 percent discount off their purchase at the skills development center (some restrictions apply).

Framing class

Bring a 5x7 or smaller picture to the skills development center and learn how to cut single and double mats, assemble, cut glass and join a frame. The class is 6-9 p.m. May 26. The cost is \$25 per person or \$37.50 for a married couple. Sign up by May 25.

Beginner crochet class

Find a new hobby and meet other people at a class especially for first-time crocheters 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the skills development center. The cost is \$10, which includes supplies. Sign up by noon on Wednesday.

Youth Center 687-5586

School's out for the summer!

Celebrate a year of hard work at the youth center "End of school" party. Students from kindergarten to fourth grade can build ice cream masterpieces, play bingo for toys or challenge friends to a pool, carpet ball or gockey match. The party starts 6:30 p.m. May 20 at the youth center, the cost is \$6 for members and \$7.50 for non-members.

Archery camp

A youth archery camp will be held 10 a.m.-12 p.m. May 23-26. Open to ages 9-15, the participants will learn how to correctly use a bow and arrows. Matthew Genesis bows, arrows, arm and finger guards and targets will all be supplied. Children of deployed parents will be given priority, the cost is \$10 for members and \$12 for nonmembers.

Youth beautification days

5-12 graders are invited to help spruce up the youth and teen center outdoor recreation areas 10 a.m.-3 p.m. June 1 and 2. The teen keystone club needs volunteers to paint new lines on the basketball court and the other game areas. Sign up May 9-27 by contacting the youth or teen centers.

Teen Center 687-5819

Madden '05 challenge

Armchair quarterbacks and coaches have the chance to show off their skills in the teen center Madden '05 challenge. The competition starts 5 p.m. today. The cost is \$1.

Teen barbecue and fishing party

Teens can join their friends for a barbecue and fishing

Memorial Day closure

Mission's End will be closed over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30.

Movie Schedule

Friday

Sin city 7 p.m. R
Starring - Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke

Saturday

Beauty Shop 7 p.m. PG-13
Starring - Queen Latifah and Alicia Silverstone

Sunday

Sin City 5:30 p.m. R
Starring- Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke

Adults: \$3.50 Children: \$1.75
Movie Recording Line: 687-5110

Youth Employment Skills meeting

Parents and high school students can learn more about the volunteer program allowing teens to bank up to \$1,000 toward their post-secondary education. This meeting takes place 1-3 p.m. May 24 at the teen center.

Community Center 687-5617

Roller blade rodeo

Families can enjoy an afternoon of roller blading fun. There will be all the favorite events such as barrel racing, pole bending, flag race and relay. The event starts 1 p.m. May 21 at the skate park. Participants aged 8 and older will compete in divisions depending upon their age. Helmets should be worn by all and elementary and sophomore divisions (ages 8-16) must wear knee pads.

Xtreme board games

Take gaming to a higher level 6-10 p.m. today with games of strategy such as Axis & Allies, Risk, Civilization and Avalon Hall. Participants of all ages are welcome.

Family Child Care 687-1180

Extended duty care

Register now for for the extended duty care program. It is available to help parents meet child care requirements for extra duty hours and child care emergencies. Care is provided in a contracted, licensed family child care home to augment regular care arrangements. An application must be completed prior to participation. Call for more details.

Returning home care

Military members returning home from a 30-day or longer deployment are entitled to 16 hours of free child care for each child 12 years old and younger. An application and a copy of orders must be submitted to the family child care office prior to participation.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

Don't let fleas and ticks bug your pet!

Fleas and ticks can be a year-round problem. Spring and summer months are the periods of highest risk. Warm temperatures and humidity can quickly lead to flea and tick infestations. Pets can contract tapeworms (an intestinal parasite) from ingesting fleas. Ticks are very common in this area and may carry Erlichiosis Canis or Lyme Disease. The vet clinic has an assortment of products to protect pets. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-3:30 m. and Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.